



## Region 8 - Libby Asbestos

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### Libby Asbestos

### EPA Information Updates

### Q : What's happening with the BNSF railyard cleanup?

A :BNSF will begin cleanup on the railyard soon. The company has prepared a revised work plan in consultation with EPA and submitted it for review.

### Information Archives

Last year, BNSF piloted a method of vacuuming soil through the ballast without moving or removing any tracks or ballast. Because this technique was not able to consistently achieve cleanup standards, EPA and BNSF mutually agreed to stop work. BNSF used the winter to look at alternative approaches.

### ABCs of Asbestos

### Asbestos Health Risks

The new plan calls for:

### Sampling and Analysis

(1) removing five tracks from the rail yard. Ties and equipment will be decontaminated;

### Risk Assessment

(2) excavating contaminated soil below tracks 1 and 2, and portions of tracks 3 and 5. The soil will be taken to the County landfill;

### EPA Cleanup

(3) capping contaminated soil in other areas of the railyard with a geotextile membrane and a soil/gravel mix;

### Health Resources

(4) backfilling with appropriate railroad sub-roadbed material and

### Asbestos in your Home

(5) reconstruction of tracks in a manner suitable to current rail operations.

### Asbestos Specialists

The work plan and supporting documents are available for public review and comment at the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Ave. in Libby. EPA has not approved the documents yet but has reviewed them. EPA will approve them after the public has had a chance to view them. Please send any written comments to Jim Christiansen (8EPR-SR); EPA Region 8; 999 18th St.; Suite 300; Denver, CO 80202-2466.

### Contacts

Once approved, the cleanup is expected to begin in September, 2004 and be completed by the end of November, 2004.

For more information call toll free:  
Wendy Thomi at 1-866-457-2690 ext. 5037 or  
EPA Information Center at 293-6194

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Last updated on Tuesday, July 5th, 2005  
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/libby/q082304.html>